A 3271-2

trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 15, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 9 totaled an estimated 16.8 billion ton-miles, 11.7 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 6 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 99 billion ton-miles, 11.3 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 9 totaled 433,346 cars, 8.2 percent above 1979, but 0.4 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 4.9 percent in the South, and 16.8 percent in the West, but down 0.9 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 12 of the 21 commodity groups showed increases, led by coal loadings, up 17,159 cars, or 22.1 percent, and grain traffic, which increased by 12,584 cars, or 63.6 percent. Eleven of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 2 totaled 36,170 cars, up 3.8 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 63,370 trailers and/or containers, 2.2 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 5 weeks of the year was 160,527 cars, 5.2 percent higher than last year, and 288,315 trailers and/or containers, up 8.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/9/80.

	Loadings in Week ended February 9, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	32,371	I	12,584	63.6	I	3,033	10.3
Other farm products	4,741	I	675	16.6	I	185	4.1
Metallic ores	25,265	I	1,822	7.8	I	3,034	13.6
Coal	94,848	I	17,159	22.1	D	2,412	2.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,085	D	474	3.8	I	59	0.5
Nonmetallic minerals	12,689	I	66	0.5	D	776	5.8
Grain mill products	18,898	I	1,168	6.6	I	53	0.3
Food and kindred products	19,040	I	1,356	7.7	I	48	0.3
Primary forest products	20,267	I	2,136	11.8	I	560	2.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	10,391	D	71	0.7	D	665	6.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,430	I	1,732	8.8	D	977	4.4
Chemicals and allied products	28,438	I	759	2.7	D	579	2.0
Petroleum products	6,812	D	257	3.6	I	353	5.5
Stone, clay and glass products	14,791	D	274	1.8	D	173	1.2
Coke	5,927	D	1,227	17.2	D	711	10.7
Metals and products	17,299	D	74	0.4	D	1,810	9.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,897	D	4,986	20.9	I	2	0.0
Waste and scrap materials	13,439	I	728	5.7	I	181	1.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,482	D	353	3.0	D	768	6.3
All other carloads	44,012	I	545	1.3	D	197	0.4
LCL traffic	224	D	237	51.4	D	25	10.0
Total Cars Loaded	433,346	I	32,777	8.2	D	1,585	0.4
Corresponding week of 1979	400,569						

	1980	1979	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (6 weeks)	2,568,193	2,376,120	I 8.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
5 weeks cumulative	82.5	74.2	I 11.2
Week ended February 9	16.8	15.1	I 11.7
6 weeks cumulative	99.3	89.2	I 11.3

AARt-021580